

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity to claim that the identification mark is thermally-written or laser-written, and is supported in the claims as originally filed and in the specification at least at page 8, line 23, - page 9, line 5. Applicants submit all claims as 1-8 and 10 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth below.

Consideration of the amendment and remarks after final is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because 1) the claim amendments clarify the claimed subject matter and do not add new matter; 2) the remarks address a new ground of rejection first raised in the Office Action mailed April 8, 2004; and 3) the amendment and remarks place the application in condition for allowance, or at least in better condition for appeal. Entry and consideration of the remarks are thus respectfully solicited.

Applicants thank the Examiner for consideration and acknowledgement of the references cited in the Forms PTO-1449 submitted March 20, 2002; May 14, 2003; and January 7, 2004.

Claims 1-8 and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Kirolos et al. (US 6,284,198) in view of Morita et al. (US 4,668,714), and further in view of Donahue et al. (US 5,637,876). For at least the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The claimed invention is directed to a dosimeter comprising a support having a first region of alanine and a binder, wherein the first region is capable of measuring an absorbed dose of ionizing radiation, and a second region having a thermally-written or laser-written identification mark. As defined in the application at least at page 7, lines 17-20, the identifying mark contains information unique to the dosimeter to which it is attached, for example, a manufacturing lot number, a unique dosimeter identification number, or calibration information for the dosimeter.

Kirolos et al. is directed to a warning sign device having a support, and a coating on the support wherein the coating contains a chromographic reagent that changes color in the presence of a polluting gas. *See*

abstract. The device functions as a self-appearing warning sign in the presence of toxic gasses, as described in the specification at least at col. 4, lines 12-16. The warning sign is the coating on the support. The chromographic reagent in the coating causes the coating to change color commensurate with exposure level to a gas. The exposure level can be determined over a measurable exposure time by correlation to a known color chart or by electronic determination of the level of contaminant. *See* col. 4, lines 25-34. Kirollos et al. does not disclose or suggest use of the warning device for the detection of radiation, use of alanine as a detector, or the presence of a thermally-written or a laser-written identification mark separate from the self-appearing warning sign that is the detection material.

Morita et al. is cited in the Office Action for the teaching of a dosimeter including crystalline alanine. The dosimeter is used for measuring radiation exposure. A reading of the dosimeter exposure to radiation is made with an electron spin resonance instrument, as shown in the examples. Morita et al. does not disclose or suggest any marking on the dosimeter for any purpose.

Donahue et al., as described in the Office Action, discloses a method of detecting marks on a dosimeter for automatic determination of radiation levels by a dose reader. In contrast to the assertion in the Office Action, Applicants find no specific mention of a laser in Donahue et al., although an optical scanner including a light source can be used in the dose reader. Donahue et al. does not disclose or suggest a method of writing an identification mark with a laser or by any other method, and does not otherwise cure the defects of Kirollos et al. or Morita et al.

One skilled in the art would not arrive at the claimed invention even if the above references were combined. The combination of Kirollos et al., Morita et al., and Donahue et al. suggests an optically-readable color-change dosimeter, wherein the alanine, or a chromographic agent added thereto, would undergo a color change indicative of radiation exposure, and which would be optically-detectable for measurement of the radiation level.

None of the references, taken alone or in any combination, disclose or suggest the claimed invention. In particular, none of the references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests including a second region having a thermally-written or laser-written identification mark separate and distinct from the first region detection area of the dosimeter, and which serves a different purpose

therefrom. For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are in order, and are respectfully solicited.

Applicants submit all of claims 1-8 and 10 are in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions, or require anything further, she is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Neuner Manne', is written over a horizontal line.

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